

MINUTES FOR THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
MEETING

Tuesday, September 28, 2010 – Community Center

Members present: Megan Hughes, Herb Reed, Eva Fallon, Marti Galvin, Joyce Griffin, Maggie Cahalan, Jim Kelly, Matt Berres, Ed James (arrived at 8:00 pm).

Staff liaison: Luisa F. Robles

Excused absences: Michael Hartman, John Lippert, Jane Young

Absences:

Visitors: Maia Davis from COG, Lore Rosenthal, Bill Orleans, Christine McElroy.

Call to order:

1. Minutes from May, June and July approved with some minor corrections.
2. Welcome to our new member Michael Hartman. And goodbye to Mary Chapman.
3. A list was circulated amongst the members to inquire who is attending the dinner in recognition of the advisory boards, and whether they want a meat or veggie dish.
4. Maia Davis from COG talked to the group about the WE CAN Campaign (Wise Energy by Capital Area Neighbors). Three communities have been selected to participate in this pilot program that will run from October 2010 to March 2011. The campaign will be expanded to other communities in 2011-2012. Green ACES is committing to help promote the campaign.
5. Jim Kelly gave an update on the County's proposed SWM regulations from the talk he attended. He said that proposition CB79 were the State minimums and that CB80 was the one preferred for environmentally minded people. Bill Duncan has been advocating for CB80 where equal standards are expected for both new development and redevelopment (City Council has voted to support CB80). EPA case studies showing different measures were presented at the meeting.
6. Luisa shared some information regarding Labor Day. Green ACES won second price for our informational table. Also the Green Fleet at the parade won second price in its category.
7. Green ACES talked about the lessons learned from the Green Effort Awards at the Labor Day Festival. The group feels they need to be more connected to the planning process of the festival to make sure that the vendors receive the "green" guidelines. This year it seemed none of the vendors had heard of the efforts being made to green the festival. Some vendors were a bit more aware in general, but chose less environmentally friendly options since the organizers did not "require" them to be more green. Green ACES decided they need to be more involved with the Labor Day Committee. Vendors submit their applications in June, it should be specified as part of the application that vendors must use materials that are recyclable in greenbelt. The Labor Day Committee convenes in January to start their preparations.

Megan commented that the booth sponsored by the Vegan Network said in their interview that the Green Festival in DC makes them use recyclable products (not Styrofoam) and that

they have no problem complying, but that the Labor Day Committee had not requested recyclable products so they went with the cheaper option.

Herb said Green ACES should come up with incentives and individual initiatives such as a prize for the vendor that comes up with the most innovative way to recycle and save energy.

Green ACES noticed that the City does the majority of the lighting inside the booths. They recommend that the City start replacing their bulbs with more energy efficient ones.

In terms of recycling, Green ACES thought that there were not enough recycling bins throughout the festival. They had required one recycling bin next to each trash can, and for the most part, that was not the case. Some recycling is better than no recycling, but the City can do better than that. Marti noticed there were hardly any recycling bins at the bingo station. Also, most bins were not properly labeled with the new Comingled Recycling stickers.

8. Sustainability Plan Groups. The different teams selected a fearless leader and an outreach person. Each team made a list of “ally organizations” that could provide input to each topic. Each team reviewed the categories under their section of the sustainability master plan.
9. Fall Cleanup day. October 16. Maggie and Konrad are leading this effort. Luisa will have all the materials ready to be picked up and will send out all the usual advertisements to the News Review, the web, Greenbelters list and postings around town.
10. Council Action Request. Can/Should City require that apartments provide recycling programs? Green ACES feels that since the County rule is vague, apartment complexes get away with reduced recycling for their tenants without breaking the law. Given this, the group considers it a good idea for the City to have its own ordinance. Luisa said she would consult with Planning to see if this would be an undue burden upon them.
11. Community Center Display Case. Luisa will prepare the materials and do the setup for the case.

Luisa’s announcements:

1. Public Works has started to re-sticker all the rolling carts we service for apartments, condos, churches, etc.

Adjournment: 9:10